

Morning Highlights

July 25, 2007

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EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTER CREW MOVEMENT

The five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews that were sent to wildland fire incidents in the Lower-48 on July 10 will return to Fairbanks today. The Kiana #1, Koyuk, Huslia #1 crews were last assigned on the Chimney Complex in Idaho, the Noorvik #2 crew to the Hog Heaven Fire in Montana, and the Delta #2 crew to the McKnight Canyon Fire in Montana.

Five more EFF crews will depart Fairbanks tomorrow. The Upper Kalskag, Hooper Bay # 2 and #3, and Nondalton #2 crews are on order for the East Zone Complex in Idaho, and the Tok crew is on order for the Cascade Complex, also in Idaho.

FIRE INFORMATION FOR ALASKA

Four new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Tuesday:

- One small fire was spotted from a barge six miles upriver from Old Minto. People on the barge tried to put it out, but it was still smoldering when they left. Helitack responded and searched the area up and down river but were unable to locate any smoke. The fire is in monitor status and will be looked for later this week.
- After the Gold Hill Creek Fire (#540) was reported and resources were requested, an Aerial Supervision Module aircraft found the fire to be half an acre and burning in spruce within a hardwood stand. Two CL-215, water-scooping air tankers responded and dropped five loads of water to wet the perimeter. Smokejumpers were unable to respond last night due to aircraft mechanical issues, but are being sent to the fire this morning.
- A berm pile fire on the U.S. Military's Donnelly Training Area, near Delta Junction, was reportedly smoldering. A Delta Area Forestry fire engine responded and contained the fire which is now in monitor status.
- The Alaska Fire Service Galena Zone reported a fire that was already out.

So far this year, 476 fires have burned over 354,970 acres statewide. Other staffed fires include:

Coal River (#534):

Roughly 25 miles northwest of Venetie, the 80-acre fire required protection along the southern flank Tuesday due to an archaeological site that was identified in the area. Smokejumpers and firefighting aircraft were dispatched and able to secure the southern perimeter. A helicopter continued aerial support with water drops from a bucket on interior hot spots. The fire is 70-percent contained. The east side is protected by a slough while smokejumpers continue work on the western and southern flanks.

Datkokan Creek (#528):

The fire is located roughly five miles northwest of Stevens Village. Three crews (Artic Village, Beaver/Stevens Village and Minto #2) are staffing the fire. Smokejumpers were demobilized Tuesday evening and the fire is completely contained.

Charley River (#409):

The fire received precipitation and remaining personnel await proper conditions to initiate burn out operations around structures. It is located in the Yukon Charley Rivers National Preserve.

FIRE INFORMATION FOR THE LOWER-48

Initial attack was moderate Tuesday with 245 new fires reported nationally. Information about the national situation may be found at: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf> or visit a map to see locations of incidents: http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php

OTHER

- A BLM Alaska Fire Service helicopter was used Tuesday to rescue 15 Air Force contractors from Kalakaket after their helicopter broke down.
- State of Alaska wildland fire engines are being sent to Montana. See full story at: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Alaska%20Sends%20Fire%20Engines%20to%20Lower-48.pdf>

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Additional References on Page 3

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/pdfs/02firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov>
- Division of Forestry, Burn Permit Info: (907) 451-2626, <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fire/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov>

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